



**COMMANDER, U.S. PACIFIC COMMAND  
(USPACOM)  
CAMP H.M. SMITH, HAWAII 96861-4028**

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27 May 2015

MEMORANDUM FOR HEADQUARTERS U.S. PACIFIC COMMAND  
DIRECT REPORTING UNITS  
SUBORDINATE JOINT AND UNIFIED COMMANDS  
SERVICE COMPONENTS  
HEADQUARTERS, U.S. TRANSPORTATION COMMAND  
HEADQUARTERS, U.S. STRATEGIC COMMAND  
HEADQUARTERS, U.S. SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND

SUBJECT: U.S. Pacific Command Liberty/Pass Policy for the Philippines

Commander, U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific, is hereby the Designated Commanding Officer for the Philippines. This designation supersedes the previous designation in Secretary of the Navy Instruction 5820.4G and U.S. Pacific Command (USPACOM), Instruction 5802.1N.

**BACKGROUND.** Safeguarding the relationship between the United States and the Philippines is of particular importance. Acts of inappropriate or criminal behavior by U.S. military personnel adversely impact our relationship, tarnish the image of the United States military, and harm individuals. Service Members must conduct themselves with the proper decorum and in strict accordance with the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ), as well as Department of Defense (DoD) and Service policies, regulations, and directives. DoD policy prohibits prostitution and human trafficking, and practices that subjugate, enslave, and demean individuals. Prostitution and the patronizing of prostitutes are crimes and are punishable under the UCMJ. Trafficking in Persons is also illegal under United States law. Prostitution and human trafficking are contrary to United States Military Core Values and DoD personnel in the USPACOM AOR will not condone this behavior.

**PURPOSE.** The purpose of this policy is to promulgate a USPACOM liberty/pass policy for Service Members on liberty or pass in the Philippines. This policy is intended to promote good order and discipline and ensure the safety of our Service Members and the local population. This policy is also intended to help ensure that DoD personnel act in accordance with the military's core values and do not violate the UCMJ by patronizing prostitutes or frequenting establishments that support human trafficking. All efforts that help prevent Service Members from supporting human trafficking and prostitution also help ensure the highest levels of readiness, promote good order and discipline, and provide for the health, welfare and safety of our personnel and community.


**APPLICABILITY AND REQUIREMENTS.** Unless otherwise provided for herein, this policy applies to all military personnel, including Reserve and National Guard personnel, who are on temporary duty orders, liberty, or on pass in all areas of the Philippines. This policy does not apply to personnel on leave; however, leave shall not be granted to personnel for the purpose of avoiding Liberty Policy requirements. The policy does not apply to personnel who are assigned to the Philippines under Chief of Mission authority or assigned to Pacific Augmentation Teams, as their detailed liberty guidance is more stringent than this policy. This policy supplements my Liberty Policy for the Area of Responsibility, dated 25 September 2013.

- **Curfew and Buddy Rule.** A curfew of 2400-0500 shall be strictly enforced in all areas of the Philippines. All Service Members are required to be accompanied by another Service Member, DoD civilian, contractor, spouse or adult family member when on liberty or pass.
- **Liberty Areas.** All Service Members who are on temporary duty or on a port call to the Philippines shall strictly comply with liberty zones posted in the Foreign Clearance Guide. USPACOM works in conjunction with the local U.S. Embassy, Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS), and

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other U.S. law enforcement agencies to determine the areas of particular risk and establish appropriate liberty zones to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of our Service Members and to minimize incidents that would affect relations with the Philippine government.

- **Hotel Rooms.** For force protection reasons, DoD members may only have DoD/ U.S. Contractor personnel in their hotel room, and shall only visit the hotel room of other DoD/U.S. Contractor personnel. Exceptions may be granted with prior written approval of their commander, or detachment officer in charge.
- **Enforceability.** Subordinate commands shall re-promulgate this policy to all assigned military personnel, violation of which shall be punishable under Article 92 of the UCMJ as a violation of a lawful general order. This policy will be periodically reviewed based on changing conditions, operational needs, and the strategic environment.
- **Policy Training.** Commanders will ensure every Service Member is trained on this Liberty Policy, Philippine culture, crime trends, and other law enforcement information provided collectively by NCIS, JUSMAG and the Regional Security Office. NCIS will be the lead agency that provides the information to Commanders.
- **Increased Oversight, Shore Patrols, and Enhanced Training.** Commanders will ensure senior leaders are present in the liberty zones to gauge compliance, increase the number of personnel assigned to Shore Patrol, and ensure that all personnel performing these duties are trained. It is vital that personnel assigned to Shore Patrols fully understand the Philippine culture and any potential threats to our Service Members in the Philippines. Personnel assigned to this duty must be trained with the most current information and the training must be geared to specific threats.
- **Philippine Assistance.** NCIS will continue to work with the U.S. Embassy Manila and Philippine National Police to gather the latest information regarding threats to DoD safety and security; identify locations that minimize Service Members' ability to engage in illegal activities; and enhance the security in the Liberty Zones. We must foster an environment that limits the ability of DoD personnel to patronize establishments that engage in human trafficking and prostitution.
- **Denial of Liberty or Pass.** When an individual violates this policy, it raises concerns of systemic issues---that individuals may lack the tools, resources, and training to understand the consequences of their actions and the profound effect that those actions have upon the bilateral relationship and our mission. Therefore, commanders, in the rank of O-4 and above, or the senior military Officer in Charge for personnel who are on temporary duty orders, shall recall to duty status (withdraw passes) all members of a unit, as defined by Component Commanders, in which one of its members is suspected of violating the UCMJ or Philippine Law. The same commander, or a superior commander, may authorize liberty again after review of the offense and creation of a remediation plan. For example, a unit remediation plan could include an analysis of contributing factors to the incident, unit training, or increased liberty buddy requirements.



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